

THOMAS B. HAMMOND.

MAY 23, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HENRY, of Connecticut, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 6076.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 6076) granting an increase of pension to Thomas B. Hammond, have examined the same and all the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$8 to \$30 per month the pension of Thomas B. Hammond, of Stamford, Conn., who served in Company H, Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, from January 15, 1864, to July 17, 1865, and was honorably discharged.

He filed and established a claim for pension under the general law and is now pensioned at \$8 per month for piles and resulting disease of rectum.

On June 5, 1896, he suddenly became blind, and since that time the discharge of blood and pus from the rectum, which troubled him before, has entirely ceased; and this is borne out by the report of the board of surgeons by whom he was examined.

It is alleged that the blindness is a result of the disease of rectum, and his physicians testify that in their opinion there was a connection between them, but the medical officers of the Pension Bureau refuse to accept the blindness as a result, and the medical referee has recently said:

It is not believed that a direct connection between disease of rectum and glaucoma is susceptible of proof.

The claimant is shown by the report of his last medical examination to be totally blind, and to have double inguinal hernia.

It is shown that claimant is without property or income and that he is 68 years of age.

In any event, your committee are of the opinion that this soldier is entitled to \$30 per month under all the circumstances. Certainly his present condition is not the result of vicious habits, and probably is the result of his army service. It may be impossible for medical

science to connect the disease of eyes with disease of rectum formerly existing, but it is strange that the one trouble should cease when the other developed.

We will not indulge in conjecture.

The bill is reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

Line 4, after "roll," insert "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws."

Line 5, after "Hammond," insert "late of."

Same line, strike out "Thirty-ninth," and insert in lieu thereof "Twenty-ninth."

Line 6, strike out the word "to," and after "pension" insert "at the rate."

In lines 7 and 8 strike out the words "subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, said pension to be."

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REPORT.